



KEITH JOHNSON, DESERT NEWS



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# Happy trails

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George and Patsy Lange, left, ride into Thanksgiving Point in Lehi as part of the National Pony Express Re-ride. The ride traces the original

Pony Express route from California to Missouri. The 1,966-mile trek along the Pony Express National Historic Trail runs through eight states.

*Des News Sec B*



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But Provo's Field of Dreams has traveled a much rockier road than the one inhabited by Shoeless Joe Jackson in the Hollywood film. Kevin Costner just had to chop down a corn field, but Provo's path to home plate already has included cleanup of a contaminated industrial site and rejection at the hands of residents near a proposed downtown stadium.

Billings admits that getting the stadium financed and built in 12 months might be a stretch, so his administration is laying plans to find a temporary home for the Brewers if the stadium doesn't open until June 2002.

Unlike four years ago, Provo is holding its baseball cards close to the vest this time. In 1996 the city announced amid fanfare plans to bring a minor-league baseball team to Timp Field, located near downtown on 500 North. But the proposal fell through over territorial baseball rights and neighbors' objections to the noise, traffic and lights that a baseball stadium would bring.

With baseball plans at Ironton,

tural drawings, completed by Valentin Crane Architects of Salt Lake City, have not been released publicly.

"They're beautiful," said Linda Gach Ray, a Los Angeles attorney who co-owns the Helena Brewers and has been holding discussions with Provo since last year about relocating the team.

Right now, Provo is looking for money. Billings vows the city won't raise taxes to fund the stadium, so funds must come from existing sources or new donations.

Less than half the total cost could come from sources like revenue bonds, which the city would sell against future income from the stadium. The rest of the money must come from private sources.

As an enticement, Provo is dangling naming rights to various areas of the park.

"We see a lot of interest there," said Leland Gamette, Provo's economic development director. "A lot of people are talking to us."

The last time it planned a baseball stadium, Provo had a \$1 million

what form the support will take has yet to be decided.

With a population of about 370,000, Utah County maintains it is one of the largest areas in the country without some type of professional sports franchise. But Provo's efforts to get a baseball team aren't motivated as much by nostalgia for the game as by a desire to build a stronger economic base.

Provo plans the stadium for the southeast corner of a 300-acre piece of ground at Ironton, where a U.S. Steel plant once stood. Next month U.S. Steel, which gave the property to Brigham Young University for a planned research park 30 years ago, will begin the final phase of a remediation process that will remove contaminants from the soil. Using development revenues, Provo will reimburse the company for cleanup costs.

City officials believe a baseball stadium would be an attractive anchor for further development of the Ironton Gateway Project, which could include office buildings, light industrial and manufacturing com-

the area.

The project is the city's development business Park, which is sold and now hosts businesses on the site of fill.

"At East Bay, the first thing there Holmes, assistant economic director. "There's a lot of excitement. We think baseball will do the

Besides baseball, the stadium would host other events from dance performances to rate parties. Provo is open to just about anything, but an attitude is necessary for a stadium viable since it will be held there for over a year, Gamette said.

"We see this park as an asset," he said. "It makes sense to look at this for a minor league stadium to meet a broad need."

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## LEHI

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additional cemetery property, space in the community center for the senior citizens, expansion area for the library when senior citizens relocate and exercise space for youth programs.

The tax increase would raise the rate from 0.0006 to 0.0114840, increasing the tax by 5.5 percent, or \$46.20 a year on a \$140,000 home; and \$84 a year on a business of similar value.

Lehi's revenue from property taxes would go from \$750,000 per year to \$1,126,000, a revenue increase of 55 percent.

Greenwood said the cemetery is quickly running short on space and every year the price for adjacent land is higher.

He said the senior citizens are in an area in the city library that's inadequate and if they are moved, the library could use the space for its growing needs.

Senior citizens could then take advantage of the physical training facilities as could police officers, Greenwood said.

He added that youngsters in the city recreation programs are sometimes bumped without notice from the school gymnasiums and need a place to play.

Greenwood said there has been no dissension at the public hearings on the matter so the council has proceeded in good faith. "Is this being dictated?" he asked after

## HERBERT

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and his personal record of integrity and effectiveness.

He's also bolstered by knowing he has the confidence and support of his peers. All 23 mayors in Utah County threw their votes behind Herbert in a pre-primary kickoff lunch in March.

"Experience does count," he said. "It does make a difference. I'm in a position of influence where the advantage is I can be effective, efficient and more influential than anybody (coming in new) could."

"If I were running against myself, I would vote for the experience."

Herbert thinks it's critical to have a seasoned commissioner in place with the 2002 Winter Olympic Games approaching.

He's chairman of the Utah Association of Counties Legislative Committee and says he's in a position to help shape legislation to the county and taxpayer benefit.

Herbert was recently asked by Gov. Mike Leavitt to bring the two sides together in a battle to retain access to county roads in wilderness areas.

"That shows the advantage of being well positioned," he said.

Herbert says most of the complaints he's hearing about the petition deal directly with issues that are already before the courts.

"We're a cutting-edge county as far as technology goes. We're addressing the issues. We've been able to get the distribution of the money, and now we're getting the money out of the gate for the cities in the county."

"We reduced the burden of the property tax and more significantly changed it so we're not paying the state sales tax assumption tax that is a revenue as growth

